

# AMIAA NEWS

Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America  
MARCH/APRIL 2004 - Vol. XXXVIII No. 2 (ISSN 1097-0924)



# THE PRE-EASTER RESURRECTION

Peter Doghramji

Shortly before the resurrection of our Lord, we read of another resurrection in the Gospel of John, Chapter 11. It was Jesus who was the agent of this unique event, and his friend, Lazarus, the subject. Lazarus had been dead and was buried when Jesus came to the tomb with tears in His eyes. Before the gathering of family and friends, Jesus cried with a loud voice and called Lazarus to come out. He did, to the amazement of all. That was the precursor of his resurrection from the dead a few days later.

It is more amazing that the one who had the power and authority to raise the dead, relied on the help of the bystanders to "take away the stone" which covered the grave. Couldn't Jesus, with a single word or the motion of a finger, move the stone Himself? Why would He ask others to do that simple and menial job for Him? As if the resurrection of Lazarus could not have taken place unless the bystanders became actively involved in that process!

There is more! When Lazarus came out, Jesus had another request: that they "unbind him" and free him from the bandages wrapped around his hands, feet, and face. Couldn't Jesus, who demonstrated His ability to raise the dead, also remove those bandages?

This pre-Easter resurrection event teaches us a few things about mission and evangelism.

First, the miracles which God does are signs which teach us not to be mere spectators but active participants in those events. The wonders God performs are not for a show, but for evangelism and discipleship.

Second, God is the performer of those great wonders, like raising the dead. It is not for us to play that role. Ours, however, is to do those "little" acts of menial service, such as taking away the stone, or unwrapping Lazarus, so that the miracle may take place. A glass of cold water, a few dollars in an envelope, a few cans of food, a few kind words, a telephone call ... you can make your own list. All these are essential for raising the dead. We, at the AMAA, do not raise the dead. We merely remove the stones and bandages so that God may do His work.

Third, the stone and bandages must be removed: they

are hindrances. Even the resurrected Lazarus cannot walk out of the grave with bandages on. We are called to remove all hindrances and stumbling blocks so that those whom God calls back to life, be it in Armenia, the Middle East, France, or the USA, may be released from their fetters and walk out to a new life in Christ.

Easter is our most important celebration. It is also a training in mission and evangelism.G



## AMAA NEWS

is a publication of the  
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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please send all corrections, along with the old address to: AMAA NEWS, 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652, E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

Printing: Printsolutions, Englewood, NJ (201) 567-9622

Cover Picture: Cheerful kindergarten students of the Shamlian Tatigian School (Nor Marash, Lebanon), thanks to the support of the AMAA

**ARMENIAN MISSIONARY**  **ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**INCORPORATED**

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Easter, 2004

Dear Members and Friends of the AMAA:

We extend a warm Easter greeting to you from the Board of Directors, mission partners and staff of the AMAA.

We celebrate Easter every Sunday, and follow in the footsteps of the Resurrected Lord every day. Christ appeared to his followers when he rose from the dead, and commissioned them to make disciples of all nations, teach and baptize them, and minister to their needs. That is why Easter is not in the past, but a present reality.

It is also a call for ministry and mission in the name of our living Lord. The Armenian Missionary Association of America is dedicated to serving the spiritual and material needs of God's children everywhere. We invite you, as we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ, to continue and renew your partnership in this mission by returning the envelope stitched for your convenience into the centerfold of the AMAA News.

Your donation will help AMAA plan and expand its ministries more effectively, and specifically will support projects like:

- Sponsorship of 2,800 orphans and needy children in Armenia and Karabagh.
- Sponsorship of 1,200 needy students in Lebanon and Syria.
- Distribution of infant milk formula to 600 infants in Armenia and Karabagh.
- Organizing and funding children's camps in Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Lebanon, Syria and the United States.
- Organizing Christian Education Programs, Vacation Bible Schools and Sunday Schools for children and young adults.
- Funding and equipping Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Funding the Evangelical Theological Academy in Yerevan, Armenia.
- Providing relief aid to the elderly and the handicapped in Armenia, Lebanon, Syria and South America.
- Distributing Bibles and Hymnals.
- Supporting churches, retired pastors and teachers.
- Rushing relief aid to areas hit by natural or man-made disasters.
- Providing scholarships to college students.
- Evangelism through publication and distribution of "Our Daily Bread" in Armenian.

Please accept our gratitude for your partnership in the mission of the Risen Christ.

**9Qristos lar; au i m; 5; lozl &rfn; al h |arouj iunn Qristosi 0!**

*(Krisdos haryav ee merelotz, Orhnyal eh haroutunn Krisdosee)*

"Christ is risen from the dead: blessed is the resurrection of Christ."

Andrew Torigian  
President

Rev. Peter B. Doghramji, Ph. D.  
Executive Director

## PERSISTENT IN OUR DEMAND

**Dikran Youmshakian**

*Before the Law stands a doorkeeper on guard. To this doorkeeper there comes a man from the country who begs for admittance to the Law. But the doorkeeper says that he cannot admit the man at the moment. The man waits and waits, but the doorkeeper continues to refuse him admittance yet. Finally the man is dying, and he calls the doorkeeper over to his side. "Everyone strives to attain the Law... how does it come about, then, that in all these years no one has come seeking admittance but me?" The doorkeeper perceives that the man is at the end of his strength and that his hearing is failing, so he bellows in his ear: "No one but you could gain admittance through this door, since this door was intended only for you. I am now going to shut it." (Franz Kafka, "The Trial").*

There is a certain message of truth in this short parable story for all who seek justice. There is a message therefore for us Armenians as we commemorate the Armenian Genocide and try to find a fair and just resolution to the Armenian Cause.

For the past 89 years Armenians have tried

hard to have the Armenian Genocide recognized with some but limited success for reasons behind our control. But we can argue that perhaps we have not done enough. Like the man who begs for admittance to the Law we have waited to be called in. Perhaps our begging was not hard or loud enough. Or perhaps we have knocked on the wrong door.

The parable of "The Widow and the Judge" in Luke Chapter 18 provides good insights and motivates us to do more. Jesus tells the story of a widow in a certain city who kept coming to a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. The widow kept saying, "grant me justice against my opponent." For a while the judge refused, but later he said to himself, "though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming" (Luke 18:1-8).

The widow as we read in the story had no resources and no one to back her up. But she had a persisting will to return day after

day and annoy the judge with her presence. The judge, who was not a person of faith, did not respect the widow nor her faith. He rejected her many times, but the widow did not give up. Finally the judge became concerned about his political reputation and hence agreed to grant her demand.

Let us therefore not feel and act like victims of forces beyond our reach or control, and let us not lose hope. Jesus taught us to be persistent in our faith and our demand for justice. If an unrighteous judge can be persuaded, then how about godly nations who take honor in their justness and faith?

There was a time when an independent homeland was a dream. Today it is a reality thanks to the persistent prayers and rightful demands of our compatriots in Armenia. We can capitalize on a free homeland that exists, and support it full-heartedly, making sure that it stands firm and active to knock on the doors of justice around the world. What made Jesus to admire the widow should also inspire us: her constancy and unrelenting pursuit of her just cause. G

### BIBLE STUDY SERIES

#### BIBLICAL PROFILES OF MISSIONARIES AND THEIR MISSION

##### II. Isaiah: The Impulsive Volunteer

Is. 6:1-13

**Peter Doghramji**

Prophets were self-proclaimed messengers of God. They told the people what God wanted them to hear. Some were resident royal consultants. Others wrote books which very few people could read or understand. Still others were itinerant preachers, going where God sent them. Elijah and Elisha were among them. Isaiah was not, until something happened during worship in the Temple.

He had a terrifying vision of the Holy. He was sure God would destroy him because of his sin and the sin of his people. Two unexpected things happened: an angel touched his lips with burning fire and proclaimed divine forgiveness. Then he heard an inquisitive voice saying, "Whom shall I send and who shall go for us?" Now that he was forgiven and assured of the Lord's favor, Isaiah responded immediately with an impulsive, "Here I am! Send me!" He thought his mission would be a happy one, until God sent him to the people with an unpalatable message of judgement and impending doom.

Ironically, that message of judgement contained the gospel! Isaiah's mission was to warn the people. This was a costly undertaking. This impulsive volunteer to be a missionary soon discovered that he would not be a popular prophet. In fact, he could even lose his life. Nevertheless, divine forgiveness comes with a fiery cleansing of lips. The gospel cannot be sugar-coated. The fire of God is not destructive but cleansing. Isaiah experienced it. His mission was to share that experience with the people of God!

Isaiah's mission was the delivery of bitter pills to a people infected with sin. Healing comes when the message is received and the pill is swallowed.G

## MY RECENT TRIP TO ARMENIA

**Peter Doghramji**

When our plane touched down in Yerevan, it was past midnight, an early morning on a cold January day. The trip spanned 9 time zones and 18 hours from Tuesday evening to Thursday morning. The entire landscape was white, covered with snow. When I recovered after a few hours of sleep in the "Mission House," I was led to a regular Thursday afternoon worship service, where I was expected to preach. I thought this was a ladies' Prayer Meeting, but was surprised to see a full house of worshippers, men & women, young and old, singing with jubilant faces led by the Pastor, the Rev. Hamlet Gureghian. I greeted them in behalf of the AMAA and reminded them of two complimentary statements of Jesus saying: "I am the light of the world," and "You are the light of the world." The true Light shines, and is not overcome by darkness. Therefore, "Let your light shine" as well.

The Rev. René Léonian and Mr. Harout Nercessian had come to the airport in those wee hours to meet me. They introduced me later to the members of the office staff. We had a fruitful time of sharing and conversation the rest of the day.

The next day, January 30, was the start of my visitation. I traveled about 1,200 miles in Armenia and Karabagh, visiting Ashtarak, Talin, Gumri, Camp Hankavan (Sheen/Shoghig), Hrazdan, Dilijan, Ichevan, Spitak, Vanatzor (where I also preached in the new sanctuary which will be dedicated on May

30th, Pentecost Sunday during my next trip), Stepanavan, Goris, Askeran, Shoushi, Stepanakerd, and Yerevan (including Aintab, Ardashad, the Theological Academy, and the Avedissian School). Everywhere I visited, I was greeted warmly by pastors, spiritual leaders and co-workers. Besides those mentioned, there are more than 20 other locations in surrounding villages, where we have a mission presence.

I had special meetings with pastors and spiritual leaders, with the faculty and students of the Evangelical Theological academy of Armenia, Directors of medical and dental clinics and our volunteer pharmacist, Mrs. Sylvie Leonian, Mr. Albert Dokter of Dorcas International who came from the Moscow office, pastor Vahan Frangian of the Armenian Evangelical church of Moscow (they have 80 members and meet in a rented apartment), Pastor Valeri Zakarian from Akhalkalak, Georgia (where there are 70,000 Armenians in cities and villages), who also ministers in the city of Akaltzkhe, and the villages of Gumburdu and Sulta, Pastor Garoush Andonian of Armavir (near Yerevan), a graduate of the Academy and ready for ordination, and a telephone visit with Sister Hanna of Pert.

I share with you a few highlights of the trip.

1. Armenia as a whole is gradually recovering from its darkest days. I was surprised to hear a pastor tell me that he hoped the day will soon come when churches in Ar-



*Rev. Peter Doghramji at Talin Kindergarten*

menia will be self-sufficient and ask the AMAA to help others in need. I was also impressed by the universal practice of tithing by communicant members.

2. Each church or mission center (fellowship) has extended activities, such as Sunday School (which also meets on week days), junior and senior youth, special classes for arts and crafts, languages, computers, music and drama. They also have sports teams, especially soccer, with professional trainers and coaches. Dental and health clinics are in great demand. Pastors and mission workers have their hands full. They are highly organized.

3. The Academy is still in its infancy, but it is producing leaders, both pastoral and educational. I was impressed by the quality and professionalism of graduates in the ministry.

4. Our policy is to limit our educational services to kindergarten level. The only exception is the Avedissian School of Yerevan, which has the potential of becoming a model high school.

5. Our camps, primarily Hankavan & Shoushi, provide an excellent opportunity for evangelism, Christian education, and healthy food and fresh air. Extensive renovations are

*(cont'd on page 9)*



*Rev. Peter Doghramji (sitting in the middle) with the pastors of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia (left), and the students and staff of the Evangelical Theological Academy.*

## CHILDREN'S BIBLES IN EASTERN ARMENIAN

**A**MAA-Armenia considers the Christian Education of children to be of utmost importance. Providing children with Biblical teaching has always been an important part of its Armenia ministries.

AMAA and Dorcas Aid International have been partners in various humanitarian and Christian Education projects in Armenia. They have jointly published and distributed several Christian books for children.

Recently, AMAA and Dorcas Aid International jointly translated into Eastern Armenian, published and distributed ten thousand copies of the Discovery Bible.

This high-quality, hard cover, 445-page book tells over 140 Bible stories. Each story is illustrated by several color pictures.

The Books were distributed to children in public schools, Sunday Schools and at special Christmas programs in 25 towns and



villages throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia.

The books were distributed at special events where the purpose of the Discovery Bible and its significance was explained to the children.

The books were very well received. School teachers wanted copies for themselves. Teachers of religion classes wanted copies to use in their classrooms.G

## AMAA BOARD MEETS IN LOS ANGELES

**Editors's Note:** *In this and subsequent issues of AMAA NEWS, we shall give our readers the highlights of the deliberations of the Board, its major decisions, and the activities of what goes on in meetings.*

The first full meeting of the AMAA Board of Directors in 2004 took place at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, CA, on Saturday, March 6. The Agenda included reports from the officers, (President, Treasurer, Executive Director and Administrative Director), Committees (Investment, Construction, Orphan & Child Care, Armenia Summer Camp, Managers of Real Estate and Milk Fund), and general reports of the AEUNA, ECA (Evangelical Church of Armenia), Europe and the Near East, which includes Haigazian University, and the AMAC. A progress report was also given by the Restructuring and Implementation Committee, which acts as the Search Committee for vacancies in top executive positions.

The Executive Director's report indicated that the whole of the AMAA in Armenia is in transition, from an emergency or crisis management mode (with all its shortcomings and failures, as well as its successes) to a more stable and well planned structure. This involves major changes in administration and especially in mission policy. The fledgling Church in Armenia will be empowered and strengthened to assume its God-given responsibilities for ministry and mission.

The Executive Director introduced the need for a major capital fund raising effort, and the desirability of holding a Board or Annual Meeting in Armenia in 2005 or 2006.

The Board received a report from an Ad Hoc committee of the UACC with regard to the partial acquisition of the Braille Institute property, adjacent to the Church. The Board had previously voted to explore the feasibility of acquiring the entire property jointly with the Church. A final determination will be made by the next meeting of the Board.

To address concerns of unethical behavior in financial transactions,

the Board received a letter by the Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, Emeritus Executive Director, and resolved to adopt a universal policy for honesty and integrity. All employees will be required to sign the document being prepared by legal Counsel. A congratulatory letter was sent to Dr. & Mrs. Chopourian on the occasion of their 90th birthdays.

The report of Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, Administrative Director, indicated that we continue to receive significant gifts and estates, such as Leon S. Peters Foundation, Sylvia Sarafian, Veronica Bakamjian and Anahid Simsarian (a single Armenian lady who died recently and left \$450,000 to the AMAA). Our readers are encouraged to keep the AMAA in their estate planning. George Phillips, Esq., and Albert Momjian, Esq., will be pleased to provide assistance to those who are interested in including the AMAA in their wills. The report also indicated the Administrative Director's involvement in the massive mailing of the AMAA fund-raising, supervision of activities related to relief and construction in Armenia, and general oversight of the operation in the Headquarters.

As for committees, Investment holds regular monthly meetings. The expertise and professionalism of its dedicated members are indeed admirable. In one year's time, our investment portfolio recovered most of its market conditioned losses of the previous two years. We owe a sincere word of gratitude to them, and a special one to the chairperson, Mr. Aram Minnetian. Active and vigilant is the Armenia Committee, with co-chairs Peter Kougasian, Esq. and Dr. Herair Aharonian. Orphan and Child Care, Milk Fund, Armenia Summer Camp/Christmas Committee continue their successful fund raising activities.

The Board is scheduled to meet on July 10, 2004.

The Board meeting in Los Angeles provided a welcome opportunity for members and officers to visit area churches and participate in their worship services.G

## MISSIONS TRIP TO ARMENIA

**Bryan Bedrosian\***

**R**osie and I arrived in Yerevan at 5:30am on January 5. Fortunately it wasn't as cold this January as it was in the winter of 2003 when we were in Armenia.

During our 17-day stay I visited our sister Church in Taline (Taline is a town 46 miles north of Yerevan) and had wonderful fellowship with the youth workers and the Pastor, Armen Mikaelian. They asked many questions about our church, the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA (FAPC) and what our parishioners are like. During my discussions with Pastor Mikaelian, I asked how the ministry was going to the teenage boys in Taline, since in Armenia it isn't considered macho for a teenage boy to go to church. He said they are reaching these boys through soccer. In Taline the AMAA has formed 10 soccer teams for teenage boys. The teams compete against each other and on Saturday they gather for youth meetings.

Also, I had an opportunity to go and see the AMAA center in Stepanagert, Karabagh. I spent time with the AMAA director in Karabagh, Arsen Manassian, a former soldier in the Karabagh Army of Liberation who became a Christian in the

mid 1990s and had his life completely changed.

I also visited the half-completed AMAA center in Askeran, Karabagh. The mayor of Askeran, who isn't a believer, invited the AMAA to take over the only kindergarten in Askeran and start a Christian Education ministry there. Thanks to the generous donations of members of First Armenian Presbyterian Church and Pilgram Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, work on the AMAA center in Askeran is continuing. With the completion of this center the people of this area will be given hope and will have a chance to hear the word of God.

While in Karabagh, I visited the deserted Azeri city of Agdam. It was from this city that Stepanagert was bombed continuously for almost 3 years until the Armenians captured and destroyed the city in the early 1990s. This battle was a key victory for the Armenians in the war of liberation.

Rosie and I also had an opportunity to visit Gumri (formally Lenninagan) in northern Armenia. Gumri was devastated by the 1988 earthquake where over 25,000 residents lost their lives and most of the city was destroyed. The improvement in

the city over the past 2 years has been astounding. The streets have been cleaned up and repaired and there are a lot of new buildings and apartments. Even the people looked happier.

I had an opportunity to visit with the AMAA Office Manager in Gumri, Lucine, and she expressed her dreams and plans to build an Evangelical Church in Gumri. She is quite a woman with a great faith in God.

The AMAA in Armenia is doing an outstanding job. The AMAA representative in Armenia, Rev. Rene Leonian and the AMAA deputy representative, Harout Nercessian are dedicated and hard working. We are thankful to God for them and their co-workers.

Work in Armenia is very demanding. As much as the AMAA in Armenia is doing, much more needs to be done to spread the word of God. There are many parts in Armenia that don't even have a functioning church, Evangelical or Apostolic. It is in these areas where the cults are most active. G

*\* Bryan Bedrosian is a member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA, and a major supporter of AMAA ministries in Armenia.*



*Youth workers in Taline pictured with Bryan Bedrosian and Armen Mikaelian - center back row; Youth workers in Stepanagert, Karabagh - first row Arsen Manassian, Bryan Bedrosian, Brother Aram Garabedian and Harout Nercessian*

# RESPOND TO JESUS' CALLING

## ANOUSHIK'S STORY

**M**isfortune can knock on every door. Still who will respond to the call for help?

The story about little Anoushik, an orphan, can touch deeply the heart of every human. However, displaying our simple compassion is not enough.

It was just another sunny August day. The sun was coming up from behind the horizon to clothe this day in its light and warmth.

Twelve year old Anoushik was crossing the street when a street dog that ran up to her barking, frightened her. It would seem that Anoushik was frightened slightly, but later she fell in deep stress.

Sometime later the girl started complaining about the pain in the area of her heart. Doctors prescribed some heart medication, taking into consideration her teenage period of life. A month later the pain did not stop, and her legs started to get covered with blue spots. It became more complicated and it really confused doctors. The diagnosis was dreadful – leukemia. To everyone's dismay, this was one of the most dangerous types of leukemia.

The little girl's life could end at any time. Her family was face to face with death.

However, there was no time for tears. The child needed a very expensive treatment.

Manoush, Anoushik's mother went house-to-house collecting money. She knocked on many doors. Some helped, some did not open the door, some even cursed her. (Math. 5:42 - Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you). She was able to collect some money, but this was far from being sufficient. She had many sleepless nights in anticipation of a miracle. There was nowhere else from which she could expect help.

The illness progressed. Then Manoush decided to seek help from her daughter's sponsor, Ani J. from the U.S. Anoushik received much needed help that left an astounding impact on her life.

Anoushik was placed in the hospital. During the first few months it seemed like nothing was changing. Extensive treatment, hospital beds, endless bleedings, pain and suffering changed the little girl's face. How-



*Anoushik, at the hospital, receiving new clothes sent from U.S.*



*Anoushik, today.*

ever, the family held fast to their faith and continued the treatment. The girl stayed in the hospital for 8 long months.

With time, despite the fact that the doctors did not give her any hope, Anoushik started to get better.

"If it wasn't for Ani, I don't know where would

my daughter be by now," says Manoush. The medication that Ani was able to send from abroad was vitally necessary for the treatment and was not available in Armenia.

Today, Anoushik, like many other children of her age can play and enjoy her childhood. Her happy laughter has come back.

## NEW CLOTHES SENT FOR CHILDREN IN ARMENIA

**A**noushik was one of the many recipients of the thousands of brand new clothes that during Christmas time the AMAA's Orphan and Child Care NJ/NY Committee sent to the needy and orphaned children in Armenia. The delight and pleasure of Anoushik and all the children, who received the clothing was indescribable.

There are hundreds of children like Anoushik around us, who suffer in poverty and sickness. The pace of life has become faster and faster. Daily demands and routines have prevented us in responding to the needs of others, implanting indifference in our hearts and paralyzing our emotions. The opposite of love has become indifference.

Here is a great challenge for us. We can be indifferent like the priest and the Levite, or a caring individual like the Good Samaritan of Luke 10, to whom Jesus can say:

**"For I was hungry and you gave me food  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink  
I was a stranger and you clothed me  
I was sick and you visited me**



*Children showing off their new clothes.*

**I was in prison and you came to me....  
Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one  
of the least of these my brethren, you  
did it to Me." Math. 25:35-36**

## AMAA/LARK PRESENT "MEDITATION ON PEACE"

## Nazareth E. Darakjian

In what has become an annual Easter Sea Son tradition, the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Lark musical Society jointly presented a Sacred Music concert named "Meditation on Peace" to reflect the introspective and contemplative nature of the three pieces that were performed. The program consisted of J.S. Bach's motet "Jesu, Meine Freude" (Jesus my joy) performed by the Lark adult chorus, J.B. Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater" performed by the children's choir with soloists Alenoush Yeghnazar, Soprano, and Shoghig Koushakjian, Mezzo-Soprano, and G. Faure's "Requiem" performed by the adult chorus with soloists Alenoush Yeghnazar, Soprano, and Ara Kourouyan, Baritone. The choir and soloists were accompanied by the Lark Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian.

The works were performed in chronological order based on their date of composition. The Bach motet came first, composed in 1723. The two central ideas expressed here are the insignificance of mere bodily death for the true believer, and Jesus Christ as the object of spiritual devotion and longing. The principal source of the text here is the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Romans. Next came the "Stabat Mater" by Pergolesi composed in 1736. This piece is a deeply moving lament of Mary on the death of Christ and is a statement of ardent love toward the



Son of God. The "Requiem" by Faure was composed in 1887-88. This work is one of the best-loved masterpieces in the choral repertoire and here the composer expresses grief and hope in equal measure, and conveys his own feelings and attitudes about death as a "joyful deliverance, an aspiration toward a happiness beyond the grave, rather than as a painful experience."

The concert coincided with the AMAA Board meeting on the West Coast on March 6, 2004, and took place in the beautiful sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church in Glendale, California. The sanctuary was filled to capacity with over 700 people attending, and they found inspiration in both the music and the text that was projected overhead in Armenian and English.

(cont'd from page 5)

needed. More than 10,000 children are the happy beneficiaries of these camp ministries.

6. Construction and renovations are major necessities. We can easily spend millions of dollars to renovate camps, build new sanctuaries and church facilities, modernize schools and clinics, and purchase land & property for an expanding mission field. The spiritual hunger of the people is evident everywhere. We have purchased theaters and movie houses and use them as sanctuaries. They need extensive renovations.

7. Our staff is overwhelmed with the magnitude of the work. They need our prayerful

support. We are in a transitional phase, moving from an emergency management mode to a more settled structure. The greatest need is for leadership. "The harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few." And the few we have there, merit our gratitude and support.

When my plane took off from Yerevan airport in the morning of February 6, I looked back at the landscape again, and instead of seeing only snow, I saw the children of God, our sisters and brothers, against that white panorama. I thanked God for them and for all those who continue to extend a helping hand to them across the seas. G

In conclusion, I'd like to quote a passage from the Bach motet "Jesu Meine Freude":

Defy the ancient serpent  
Defy the jaws of death  
Defy the fear they bring!  
Tremble, world, and quake,  
I shall stand here and sing  
In perfect peace!  
God's might protects me.

These words more than anything else signify the spirit of this concert as well as the power and ability of sacred music to bring to us God's perfect peace. G

## C. &amp; E. Merdianian

## Armenian Evangelical School

Sherman Oaks, CA, is seeking candidates for the full time position of principal, beginning the school year 2004-2005.

The School, established in 1982, runs Pre-K through Eight.

- **Candidates Must Be Fluent in English and Armenian.**
- **Master's Degree and Experience in Educational Administration Preferable.**

Please send resume and cover letter by April 30, 2004 to:

Chairman

Search Committee

P.O.Box 6061-658

Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

**ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED  
CONFIDENTIALLY**

## MERDINIAN SCHOOL BANQUET YET ANOTHER SUCCESS

The annual banquet of the C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School took place on February 28, 2004 at the Deukmejian Hall of the Ararat Home in Mission Hills, CA.

The Banquet began by Committee Chair, Dr. Arto Boyajian's welcoming words, followed by the Armenian and Armenian National anthems and the invocation. Mr. Ronald Karabian of Fresno presented a check of 10,000 dollars to the school.

Following the dinner, musical selections from Dikranian's Anoush Opera were presented by two young artists, Ani Maljian, Soprano, and Souren Hazarian, Tenor, accompanied on the piano by Maro Donabedian.

After a video presentation, depicting life at Merdinian, Dr. Vahram Shemmassian, the school Principal, addressed the guests.

The keynote speaker, Senator Chuck Poochigian, eloquently delivered his speech and emphasized the importance of providing moral education based on Christian faith.

Mrs. Rita Meneshian, former faculty member, and Mr. Harold DeMirjian were recognized by the Board for their dedicated and outstanding services to the school.

The program included a successful silent auction and concluded with a benediction by Rev. Ron Tovmassian, senior Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church.G



*Zaven Khanjian & Rita Meneshian (above); Zaven Khanjian, Harold DeMirjian & Sen. Chuck Poochigian (below).*

### DR. DREW TORIGIAN AND DR. WARREN GEFTER CO-PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATORS FOR NLST AT UPENN MEDICAL CENTER

The American Cancer Society is promoting a new scientific clinical trial which will determine if screening high risk individuals with spiral computer tomography (CT) technology – rather than just the traditional chest X-ray – before they have symptoms can reduce lung cancer deaths.

This new National Lung Cancer Screening Trial (NLST) is the result of a collaboration between the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute (NCI) and American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN). Slated to last eight years, the trial will also compare these two most common methods of detecting lungcancer – spiral CT and the standard chest X-ray – on the risks and benefits associated with each test.

Funded by the National Cancer Institute, the trial will enroll 50,000 current or former smokers at 30 different study sites across the nation. Two of these sites will be in Pennsylvania at the University of Pittsburgh as well as the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Drs. Warren Gefter and Drew Torigian are co-principle investigators for the NLST at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. They have used a spiral CT scanner for several years for imaging various parts of the body. "Utilizing CT imaging in this trial, however", said Dr. Gefter, "can provide information essential to our understanding of this technology's value in the early detection of lung cancer. We deal with lung cancer patients on a daily basis and are very interested in any detection method which could ultimately eliminate much pain and suffering." Dr. Torigian added, "We're very pleased to have been chosen to take part in the NLST study. However, our focus is on helping patients and we can do that by testing the early screening processes which may detect tumors smaller in size and hopefully identify a method which can reduce the mortality rate of lung cancer."

Dr. Drew Torigian is a supporter of the AMAA and is a sponsor in the AMAA Orphan Child Care Program. He is the son of AMAA President Andy Torigian and Rose Torigian.G



*Dr. Warren Gefter Discussing with Dr. Drew Torigian Procedures on Protocol for NLST*

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM IN LEBANON

Sevan Balabanian\*

Having been in several countries all over the world, I have realized that sometimes it is hard to imagine what a situation is like until you are there yourself. In the next few paragraphs, I will attempt to help you picture the situation in Lebanon and show why the AMAA Tuition Sponsorship Program is so much appreciated in our country.

The Armenian Evangelical Schools of Lebanon started their 2003-2004 academic year in the midst of an economic crisis, through which the whole country is going. If you visit any school office these days, you will find at least a few parents asking for more financial assistance for their child to continue his or her school year. The story is often the same: the father was working in a firm with low wages, when he suddenly lost his job without prior notice. The mother is looking for a job, but she cannot find one. The family cannot pay rent and can hardly provide for food and clothing. Often the family is also taking care of the grandparents who are old and need medication and medical care.

Many children in our schools share this story. Many live in humble and tiny apartments, where the living room doubles as their bedroom at night. Many never venture out of the area in which they live. They don't know what a holiday is. However, the saddest thing is that the stress of the financial burden of their parents shows on their own little faces.

One of our schools located in the Armenian village of Anjar has a unique Boarding Department. It is one of the very few Armenian institutions in the world, which boards students ages 3-18. Its mission includes providing shelter for children coming from poor and broken Armenian families.

It is not uncommon to find 12-year-old Armenian children in the streets of Beirut who dropped out of school. Often what they do is to look for a job or try to learn a craft. Our hearts break when we realize the conditions of the work environment in which they spend their years. They are surrounded by physically and socially unhealthy conditions much before they are ready to handle them.

We firmly believe that our schools make a difference in the lives of all the children who are our students. The Armenian Evangelical Church has always made its educational ministry a priority. We have done and still do our utmost to keep children and young adults in school and to equip them with skills to face the challenges of life. The AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program has always been there for us. Our thanks go to all the generous donors and the faithful staff members. We have enjoyed the faithfulness of God in providing for the needs of 650 children in our 8 schools this year. Through the kind gifts of our donors, we have been able to offer, along with a good education, a clean environment, Christian values and a real hope for a better future.G

\* Mrs. Balabanian is the Coordinator of the Educational Council of the Armenian Evangelical Schools in Lebanon.

### IN SEARCH OF SPONSORS

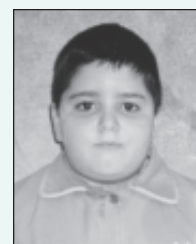
*The response to our appeal (Jan.-Feb. 2004 Issue) on behalf of children in Lebanon and Syria was encouraging, as 30 children found their caring sponsors. Thank You! There are however 570 more students like Sylvart, Karoun, Shant, Hagop, Raffi and Marine who still search for sponsors to help keep them in school. Please look one more time at these pictures (or share them with others). We are sure you will find it in your heart to sponsor them. A gift of \$200 will keep one more student in school for one whole year.*



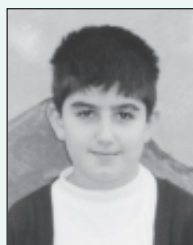
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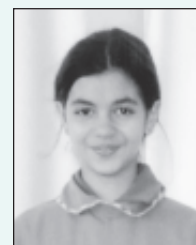
Shant



Hagop



Raffi



Marina

*Yes, I want to sponsor \_\_\_\_ child(ren) and make sure he/she attends school. Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AND MAIL IT TO  
AMAA - 31 W. CENTURY RD. PARAMUS, NJ 07652

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## Leo S. Avakian

Leon S. Avakian, former longtime municipal engineer of Asbury Park and 17 other Monmouth County towns and a key figure in Shore area beach-protection efforts, died at home, on February 3, 2004, at the age of 77. He had formed Leon S. Avakian Inc., Consulting Engineers, Neptune, in 1954, and was the Asbury Park city engineer for 35 years. While serving in that capacity, he did the design work for reconstruction of the foundation of Convention Hall. He was appointed municipal engineer for Deal in 1964.

Avakian was recognized as an expert in beach erosion control, and was published on the subject. He pioneered the design and use of asphalt grouting for jetty and groin stabilization along the Atlantic coast.

His major projects also included a breakwater for Asbury Park to prevent further erosion, construction for the new Deal Lake jetty and reconstruction of the "Golden Brick Road". Avakian had volunteered his time at the school to teach industrial arts students about engineering.

Leo Avakian received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA., in 1949, and did post graduate work at Columbia University.

Recognized as "Engineer of the Year" in 1991 by the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers, he served as its president, as well as president of the NJ Society of Professional Engineers. He was a Navy veteran, serving during World War II and sang in the Blue Jackets Choir.

Avakian was deeply involved in community service. He served 30 years on the advisory board to the Salvation Army of Asbury Park; and 40 years on the Board of Directors of the Shore Area YMCA, where he was a 1992 recipient of the "Man of the Year" award. He was a 30-year member of the Asbury Park Kiwanis Club who also served as president.

He was a 50-year member of the First Presbyterian Church of Belmar, where he served as a church elder, and on the building committee for both the new sanctuary and the Christian Education Building.

Barbershop singing was another important part of his life. He founded the Asbury Park Chapter of Barbershop Quartet Singing.

Avakian is survived by his wife, Ruth A.; two sons, Thomas L. of Tinton Falls, and Peter R. of Allenhurst; two sisters, Marion Slater of Tinton Falls and Helen Eberle of Westwood and five grandchildren

A memorial service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Belmar. G

## Harry Asadorian

Harry Asadorian, a photoengraver and World War II decorated veteran, passed away February 23, 2004. He served his country as he served the Lord in his Christian faith.



Harry Asadorian was born in 1916 in Troy, NY to Alice and Karekin Patanian-Asadorian. Karekin was from Cypress, Greece and Alice was from Aintap, Turkey who escaped the Turkish massacres of the Armenians. Her strong faith in God led her to Calvary Baptist Church in New York City where in the 1920's Harry, his brother Jack and sisters Lucy, Anna, Roseanne and Mary received their Christian foundation. In 1925 Harry accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized by Rev. John Stratton.

Harry grew up in the Bronx, New York, helped in the support of the family through the Great Depression. He joined the Army in 1942, serving in the European Front in such battles as the Battle of the Bulge. He was a war photographer for many generals, including General Curtis Lemay and General Royall. He served in the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Harry left the service in 1946 with an honorable discharge. He began working as a photoengraver and dedicated many years to Knapp Engraving. Harry was instrumental in establishing a young people's group at Calvary Baptist Church where he also taught Sunday School. He served in various positions at First Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church in Flushing NY.

In 1948 Harry married Rosanna Misirian from Troy, NY. They bought a house in Fresh Meadows, NY and raised three children, William, Irene and Laura. The children eventually married, William to Diana Martirosyan, Irene to Jerair Panossian and Laura to Dennis Gantt. Harry is survived by his wife, children and five grandchildren: Diane, Michael, Ronald, Beverly and Vaughn. He was the beloved brother of Jack Asadorian, Lucy Cherkezian, Anna Misirian, Rose Kadejian and Mary Vanian.

Harry Asadorian will be remembered as a man of prayer. His unshakable faith in Jesus Christ was an anchor of his entire life. We thank God for Harry Asadorian's life and blessing that he was to his family and friends. His life touched many people. G

## Hovsep Karjian

by Rev. Hovhannes Karjian

Born in 1927 and 1928, together we grew up as twin brothers, together we played, learned our alphabet, together we sang and prayed. Together we were awakened to our parents' daily morning



prayers and hymn singing. That was in Marash, Turkey. When we moved to Aleppo, Syria, in 1936, together we attended Bethel School and Sunday School and together we sang duets to the satisfaction of our parents and teachers.

Graduating from Aleppo College in 1945, together we moved to Kessab and Karadouran for teaching positions, and after moving to Beirut, in 1953, we parted ways. Our good friend Mr. John Jamgotchian enlisted you as an apprentice in his workshop and helped you develop into a master craftsman in the art of photoengraving and zincography. Meanwhile, completing my Seminary and University education, I returned to Syria.

By the time our family moved to Beirut in 1979, you had already moved to U.S. and we lost contact – until we met you in our daughter Pauline's home in Philadelphia and, a year later, in our home. This was a bonanza. In utter elation our son Datev exclaimed, "At last I met my Uncle!"

When we learned of your demise on January 13, I was doubly saddened, because I was not permitted to travel due to health problems. But Datev, decided to meet his cousins, and, together with his mother, Rebecca, they represented us all at your funeral.

Your younger son, Jimmy, addressing mourners, declared, "My Dad was always ready to keep the family together and helped us in time of need. He worked hard to help us in every way."

Dear Hovsep, I do not know which church, if any, you and family attended. Now that our children have met, we acknowledge our moral obligation to lead them to the faith of our fathers. Only then our parents' prayers will be answered!

Your children Vache and daughter Julianne, Vivien and husband James and children, David and Jennifer, your youngest son, Jimmy and wife Maria and daughter Mary Beth served you faithfully. God bless them. Special thanks to your friends, the Revs. Barkev Darakjian and Joseph Matossian, for conducting your funeral.

Can we look forward to meet again in eternity? G

## Beatrice Harpoot

Beatrice Harpoot, passed away on January 22, 2004, in Miami Shores, FL. She was born in Lowell, Mass., and was the youngest daughter of Charles and Esther Harpoot. Her father owned the Jewel Movie Theater so she and her friends enjoyed going to the movies after school. She was very close to her family.

She excelled at Lowell High School and went on to graduate from Simmons College. She was the first one in her family to graduate from college. Her family later moved to Arlington, Mass. She worked as a paralegal for Bingham, Dana and Gould law firm for many years and later as trust officer for State Street Bank.

She was very involved with the Armenian community as an active member of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, the ASA, the AGBU and the AMAA.

After she retired, she and her sister Queenie moved to Bal Harbour, Fla., to join her sister Florence, her brother-in-law Leon Sarkisian and her family. In 1990, Queenie and Leon passed away and Bea and Florence decided to live together in Miami Shores, where Florence owned a home and where her nieces Zarie and Leanne also lived. She spent her retirement years enjoying her family including her grandnieces Brittany Sarkisian, daughter of Leanne and Jennifer Jones and grandnephew Kevin Jones, children of Zarie Jones and husband Bill. She will always be remembered by her family for her loving and generous spirit and the wonderful memories that were shared with her during her lifetime in the Armenian community, her work in Boston, and her retirement in Florida. Donations may be made to the Charles and Esther Harpootian Family Fund at Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.G

## Garo S. Matossian

Garo S., M.D., F.A.C.P., born August 5, 1921, in Aintab, Cilician Armenia, passed away March 11, 2004, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

A graduate of Aleppo College (Syria) and the American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Dr. Matossian emigrated to the U.S. in 1952. He married Mary A. Kilbourne in 1954 and became a U.S. citizen four years later. Dr. Matossian served as Chairman of the Board of the Yater Clinic, Washington, D.C., Professor of Hematology at the Georgetown University School of Medicine, and attending physician at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington Hospital Center, and Sibley Me-

morial Hospital. He had resided in Bethesda, Md., since 1963.

Long active in Armenian affairs, Dr. Matossian steadfastly supported the Armenian Assembly of America (Fellow Trustee), the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Armenian Library and Museum of America, the Armenian Numismatic Society, and the Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program of the Armenian Church.

Deeply devoted to the family he founded in America, Dr. Garo S. Matossian is survived by Mary Kilbourne (the former Mrs. Garo) Matossian of San Rafael, Calif.; daughter Lou Ann Matossian and Kristine Hoover of Minneapolis, Minn.; daughter Michele Irene Matossian and Christopher Thralls of San Rafael, Calif.; son Viken Raffi and Mary (Cook) Matossian of Ann Arbor, whose devoted care was a special blessing in his final months; son Mark Garo and Renée (Myers) Matossian of San Mateo, Calif.; sister Angèle (Mrs. Kevork) Nersoyan of Aleppo; sister Alidz (Mrs. Haroutiun) Juljulian of Glendale, Calif.; and their families.

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, Mich., will hold visitation on Monday, March 15, 6-9 p.m., and funeral services Tuesday, March 16, 10:30 a.m. Interment is at Forest Hill Cemetery, Ann Arbor. Memorials are suggested to St. John's Armenian Church, the Armenian Assembly Tree Project, or Home Care & Hospice of Michigan.

May the earth rest lightly upon him.G

## Hrant Sahelian

Hrant Sahelian was born in Damascus, Syria in 1927. He had the occasion to travel to France immediately after the Second World War to study optics. He later returned to Syria and established a successful eyeglass shop in Damascus - one of only two at the time. He met Jacqueline Dolbakian in Beirut, Lebanon and they married in 1954. The political events of Syria in the early 1960s dictated that they relocate to Beirut, Lebanon. Continued turmoil in the Middle East, and their son's need for medical care as a result of polio, caused the family to relocate once more in 1970, this time to the United States. He and an acquaintance from Damascus started "Philadelphia Lens Coating Company". Readers will recall that multicolor prescription lenses were the craze in the early '70s.

He moved to Los Angeles in the mid 1980s to join his sons Ara and Raffi, and bought a cigar shop "the Buccaneer Smoke Shop" in the San Fernando Valley. The shop was well-known for a large wooden Indian which stood at its entrance. (Ironically, the wooden Indian was stolen shortly before he sold the business). He retired recently and he and Jacqueline settled in a retirement community south of Los Angeles aptly called "Leisure World". His first quest, as always, was to find Armenian families with whom he could socialize. And he did.

He died on January 24, 2004 in California from heart failure. His death was sudden and unexpected despite his ongoing battle with a weakened heart. His friends will remember him for having a terrific sense of humor and a love for the company of Armenians. Hrant is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, and his two sons Ara, a trial lawyer; and Raffi, a physician. Ara is married to Shelly Mayernick, a public school teacher in music (who was the organist at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church in Havertown, Pennsylvania for many years). They have a daughter, Allegra, who is now 11 years old.

The Memorial service was held at the Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Sunday, March 7, 2004, at 3 pm conducted by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji

The family asks that donations he made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America or the Children's Hospital of Orange County. G

## Isabel Amirkhanian Boyd

Isabel Boyd was a homemaker for most of her life. A multi-talented person, she used her skills to support her family and enable them to succeed in work and school. She had a quick mind and could offer instant solutions to problems that others would need time to ponder. She was also a superior student, skipping the fifth grade and winning her school's Music Memory Contest, then part of a national program. Her diction was poetic and contained unconscious alliteration and assonance.

She was a quiet disciple, shunning recognition; but she was clerk of her church, taught Sunday School, and in her later years, assisted her daughter in church libraries. Predeceased by her husband Mentor, she is survived by her daughter Marilyn; brother Benjamin; and sister Marion.

She was born in Manhattan, NY, on July 12, 1909, and at the age of two, moved with her family to Fresno, CA, where her father

## OBITUARIES

established American Press Printers. Graduating from Fresno High School at the age of 16, she moved to Los Angeles and lived with Judge Ida May Adams, while working her way through the University of Southern California. She played violin in the university orchestra and earned a master's degree in education and social science, as well as a general secondary teaching credential, which at the time covered all the grades from kindergarten through junior college.

She did substitute teaching in Fresno Junior High Schools, but not being able to obtain a permanent position, she took a job as an accounts clerk with the State Board of Equalization in the capitol building in Sacramento, where she also attended the McGeorge School of Law, until her marriage.

It was a marriage of equals. She and her husband were the same age. They were both university graduates with a good eye and ear, and shared the same ethnicity and hometown, but most of all, they shared a spontaneous generosity, which is the mark of a true Christian. Isabel's life verse was "Charity never faileth".

A Graveside Service was held at Belmont Memorial Park on Tuesday, March 9, 2004.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Mentor Astor Boyd Memorial Fund of the Armenian Missionary Association, 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652. G

### Dr. Hagop Jack Abdulian

*By Dr. Martha Abdulian Missirlian*

In 1918, survivors of the Kessab deportations made their way back up the mountains to their ancestral homeland after having been driven out by the Ottoman Turks. It is into this



rugged world, a mere five years later, that our Dad was born. But he was also born into a world filled with God-praising music, prayer, poetic natural beauty and an extended family of boundless love. Our Dad was raised by an angelic mother and a father who knew the Holy Scriptures intimately and used them frequently in the training of their children. It came naturally then for our Dad to teach us how to live, if not by chapter and verse, then by example of his spotless integrity, his tireless industry and zealous humanism.

I have never met a more loyal person than Dad. He loved his family and friends fiercely

and had a good word to say about everyone.

Dad was so devoted to his profession, not so much as a livelihood, but as a service. As his only daughter, I have fond memories of helping him attend to patients in our home, boiling instruments over the stove and assisting him in minor procedures.

Dad loved being a Kessabtzi. He loved being Armenian. When he stepped off the airplane in Armenia, he kissed the ground and told our Mom, "For the first time, I feel I am home".

Dad loved all the churches. While he was an Evangelical, he reveled in The Mother Church and had respect for the Catholic Church. He counted as friends clergy and parishioners from all churches and all political persuasions. Days after his death, bells rang simultaneously at all three churches in Kessab in honor of his life and passing.

Dad gave me many eloquent bits of advice. Perhaps the most helpful as I grew up was his belief that "the beauty of a woman is her simplicity."

The word generous should include our Dad's name in the dictionary. I would feel bad when I needed tuition money and he would say, "This is the happiest check I write". He always had a way of making us kids feel secure and cared for and he loved taking care of our friends, too.

His love and awe of our Mom and her abilities grew to such an extent over the years that he would hold her so affectionately he would hardly let go. As a lifelong caregiver it was difficult for Dad to accept care himself, but he allowed our Mom to take on the role which she did with diligence and grace. Thank you Mom for taking such good care of our Dad.

I am not cut from the same cloth as my Dad and his generation. But his passing has given me a renewed spirit. It is not too late for any of us to live as we are meant to, as our Heavenly Father commands us to live. With the passing of this amazing man — our Dad, your friend, cousin, physician, colleague, neighbor, in-law, grandfather, uncle, fellow parishioner, brother and husband — we can challenge ourselves to live better, stand taller, be more loyal and generous — always remembering to be the light of this world, to be ambassadors for the Lord, and to stay steeped in His Word. We can hold our tongue, turn the other cheek and always find the best in others. We can love each other like Dad loved us.

I thank God that I was the daughter of Dr. Jack Abdulian. G

**The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News.**

- \* **Apelian, Alice**  
NY
- \* **Abdulian, Jack**  
Studio City, CA
- \* **Amirkhanian Boyd, Isabel**  
North Hollywood, CA
- \* **Asadorian, Harry**  
Flushing, NY
- \* **Bedrosian, Lotus Dean**  
Kingsburg, CA
- \*\* **Gabriel, Edwin**  
Ocean Grove, NJ
- \* **Grant, Gerard**  
North Babylon, NY
- \* **Haratian, Laura**  
MA
- Hovenanian, Mary**  
Winchester, MA
- Jaildagian, John**  
New Smyrna Beach, FL
- \* **Khachigian, Ronald H.**  
Visalia, CA
- Kouyoumdjian, Lydia**  
Montevideo, Uruguay
- \* **Minassian, Margarite**  
CA
- \* **Mirakian, Rose**  
Ocean City, NJ
- \* **Reilly Atikian, Katherian**
- \* **Sagherian, Karekin**
- \* **Sahelian, Hrant**  
Reseda, CA
- \* **Sherbetjian, Mary**  
Thousand Oaks, CA
- \* **Tahakjian, Martin**  
Cranston, RI
- \* **Tahmizian, Serpouhi**  
Groveland, MA
- \* **Yepremian, Anne-Marie**  
Cranston, RI

\* Memorials were designated for AMAA

\*\* Bequests assigned

# 2004 Search for Sneakers



Once again we appeal to you seeking your support for our 10,000 summer campers in Armenia, Georgia and Karabagh. We are specifically looking for funds to purchase sneakers for children and youth ages 6-18, who will attend AMAA Sumer Camps this year. Otherwise they will arrive with torn, ill-fitting shoes which makes it hard for them to participate, especially in sports activities.

Whereas most of our children in the U.S. have the luxury of several pairs of shoes, back in our homeland families are unable to afford to buy one pair of fitting comfortable shoes.

We urge you to participate in our committee's urgent endeavors in the "Search for Sneakers" project by making a generous donation now. Your reward will be in knowing that you have

brought much joy to children, who will be able to participate without pain and discomfort in our camps.

*Yes, I would like to provide sneakers for children attending AMAA camps in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia.*

*Enclosed please find my donation of:*

*----- U.S. dollars.*

*Name -----*

*Address -----*

*(Please make tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA, earmarked for "Search for Sneakers")*

These camps provide the children with nutritious meals, time in the country away from their crowded homes and give them the opportunity to live in a Christian environment. Each day they are told Bible stories, do crafts, perform skits, sing hymns and choruses. All these activities enrich their Christian heritage.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, N.J. 07652 by May 1, 2004.

**Armenian Missionary Association of America**

31 West Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652

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